

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated April 9, 2004.
Claims 126-174, 176-225 and 227-250 are pending in the application.

5 In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with
37 CFR 1.84, the disclosure for various informalities and claims 162, 165, 213 and 216 for
various informalities. Further, claims 126-128, 149-153, 156-158, 164, 167, 168, 174, 200-
211 and 215 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent
No. 4,589,075 ("Buennagel") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,917 ("Sekiguchi"). Further,
10 claims 129-136, 138-146, 148, 159-163, 165, 169-173, 176-182, 185-195, 197-199, 213,
214, 216, 218, 219, 221-225, 227-242 and 244-247 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
as being unpatentable over Buennagel in view of Sekiguchi and further in view of U.S.
Patent No. 6,553,418 ("Collins"). Further, claims 147, 166, 217 and 220 were rejected under
35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Buennagel as modified by Sekiguchi and Collins in
15 view of U.S. Patent No. 5,181,026 ("Granville"). Claims 137, 154, 155, 183, 184, 196, 212,
and 243 were indicated to be allowable. Claims 248-250 were allowed.

 With this response, claims 126-130 and 182 have been cancelled and Claims 137,
154, 155, 183, 184, 196, 212 and 243 have been re-written in independent form. Claims 213-
220, 224-235, 237-241 and 247 have been amended where appropriate such that they depend
20 directly or indirectly from Claim 243 which was indicated as allowable by the examiner.
Claims 221-223 and 242-246 have been amended where appropriate such that they depend
directly or indirectly from Claim 212 which was indicated as allowable by the examiner.
Claims 131-136, 138-153, 156-174, 176-181, 185-195 and 197-211 have been amended
where appropriate such that they depend directly or indirectly from Claim 248 which was
25 allowed. New Claims 251-262 have been added, contain similar features to existing claims
and depend from allowable or allowed claims.

 In the prior response, the Applicants attempted to advance prosecution by amending
the application to contain only allowable or allowed claims and claims depending from these
allowable or allowed claims. However, the Examiner has performed a new search finding

new art and responded with a final office action. The Applicants have therefore had no opportunity to present arguments on the new art.

With this response, the Applicants have again attempted to advance prosecution by amending the application to contain only claims indicated as allowable, allowed and depending from the allowable and allowed claims. Therefore, the applicants request that the examiner provide either a notice of allowance or subsequent non-final office action in the next communication.

Each of the rejections from the Final Office Action of April 9, 2004 is discussed below in connection with the various claims. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amended claims and the following remarks.

I. OBJECTIONS

A. Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). With this response figures 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b and 6-11 have been deleted and new figures 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b and 6-11 have been added. The new figures correct the element numbering issues noted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

B. Specification

The Examiner objected to a particular portion of the Specification. With this response and in accordance with the Examiner's remarks, the Specification has been reviewed and amended. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

C. Claims

Claims 162, 165, 213 and 216 were objected to because of the inclusion of the phrase "(watt-hour)". With this response, Applicants have amended claims 162, 165, 213 and 216 to remove this language. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 126-128, 149-153, 156-158, 164, 167, 168, 174, 200-211 and 215

These Claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buennagel in view of Sekiguchi. With this response, Claims 126-128 have been cancelled. Claims 149-153, 156-158, 164, 167, 168, 174 and 200-211 now depend from allowed Claim 248. Claim 215 now depends from allowable Claim 212. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of these claims.

B. Claims 129-136, 138-146, 148, 159-163, 165, 169-173, 176-182, 185-195, 197-199, 213, 214, 216, 218, 219, 221-225, 227-242 and 244-247

These Claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buennagel in view of Sekiguchi in further view of Collins. With this response, Claims 129, 130 and 182 have been cancelled. Claims 131-136, 138-146, 148, 159-163, 165, 169-173, 176-181, 185-195 and 197-199 now depend from allowed Claim 248. Claims 213, 214, 216, 218, 219, 224, 225, 227-241 and 247 now depend from allowable claim 212. Claims 221-223, 242 and 244-246 now depend from allowable Claim 243. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of these claims.

C. Claims 147, 166, 217 and 220

These Claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buennagel in view of Sekiguchi and Collins and in further view of Granville. With this response, Claims 147 and 166 now depend from allowed Claim 248. Claims 217 and 220 now depend from allowable Claim 243. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of these claims.

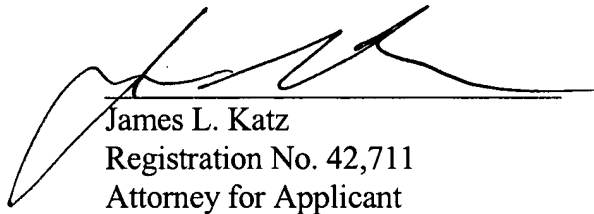
III. New Claims

New Claims 251-262 have been added. These claims depend directly or indirectly from allowed or allowable claims and therefore should be allowable. Notification of the allowability of claims 251-262 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Each of the rejections in the Final Office Action dated April 9, 2004 has been addressed and no new matter has been added. Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if it would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: May 28, 2004

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